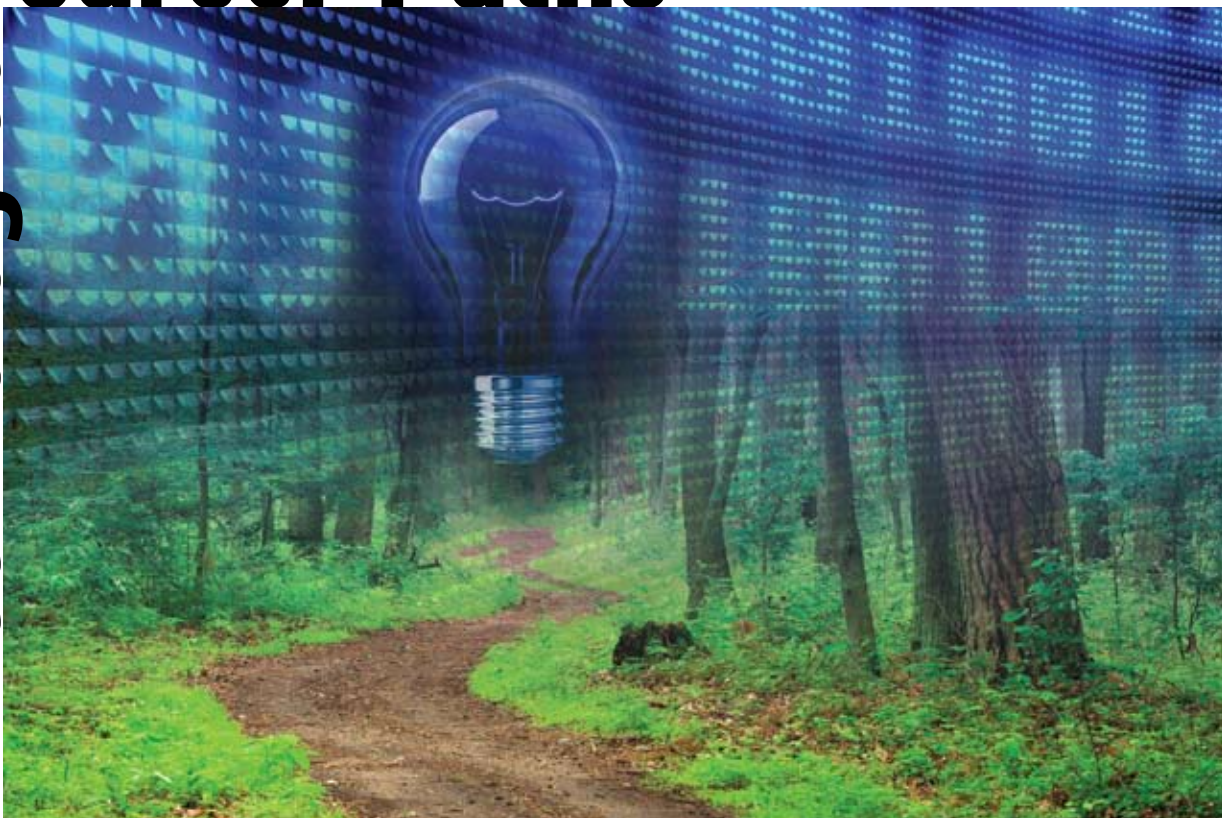


Technological Career Paths



Technology is increasingly impacting economic life. Change is all around us. To qualify for many fields of work such as medical support, information technology, industrial and maintenance technicians, formal training beyond high school is required.

When you ask experienced workers what they did to prepare to qualify for their job, you find there are often multiple pathways. People who were trained, certified, or have a degree in one area or type of work, may be working in a field far from their initial training.

At the same time, most occupations have a usual and well-defined path that someone can take to fully qualify to begin work in that area.

Postsecondary Vocational Awards

Many entry-level technical jobs require new workers to complete a training program ending with a certificate or other award, but not a degree. Some of these training programs last only a few weeks, while others may last more

than a year. Occupations in this category include some that require only the completion of a training program, while others require individuals to pass a licensing exam before they can begin work.

In Utah, the two most significant sources of this type of job certification and training are the applied technology colleges and the community colleges. In addition, there are many private education institutions that offer training programs ending with occupational certification or the likelihood of passing a required licensing exam.

Associate Degree

Another group of technical occupations usually requires workers to have an associate degree, generally at least two years of full-time academic study beyond high school at a college or university. Most associate degree programs are quite career specific, pointing to an actual occupation or group of related occupations. After completion of the required associate degree some of these occupations also require passing a licensing exam.


Largest Occupations in Utah

with Associate Degree or Postsecondary Vocational Training

Occupation	Employment Estimates		Hourly Wage	Training Level
	2004	2014	Median	
Registered Nurses	16,270	24,340	\$24.80	Associate degree
Computer Support Specialists	5,370	7,560	\$16.80	Associate degree
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	2,780	3,960	\$11.80	Associate degree
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians	2,040	2,740	\$23.10	Associate degree
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	1,830	2,630	\$12.10	Associate degree
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	1,750	2,570	\$18.60	Associate degree
Computer Specialists, All Other	1,530	2,090		Associate degree
Dental Hygienists	1,280	1,910	\$30.00	Associate degree
Biological Technicians	1,360	1,820	\$12.80	Associate degree
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	1,150	1,650	\$20.40	Associate degree
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	9,940	13,900	\$9.50	Postsecondary vocational training
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	8,050	11,080	\$14.90	Postsecondary vocational training
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	5,650	7,780	\$10.00	Postsecondary vocational training
Medical Secretaries	3,470	4,420	\$11.60	Postsecondary vocational training
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	2,700	4,300	\$9.20	Postsecondary vocational training
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	3,080	4,050	\$16.10	Postsecondary vocational training
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	2,580	3,510	\$18.10	Postsecondary vocational training
Electronic Home Entertainment Equipment Installers and Repairers	2,050	2,770	\$15.20	Postsecondary vocational training
Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors	1,790	2,680	\$18.60	Postsecondary vocational training
Real Estate Sales Agents	1,960	2,610	\$21.60	Postsecondary vocational training
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	1,670	2,410	\$11.40	Postsecondary vocational training
Legal Secretaries	1,640	2,160	\$16.40	Postsecondary vocational training
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	1,740	2,040	\$21.30	Postsecondary vocational training
Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate	1,340	2,020	\$21.00	Postsecondary vocational training
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	1,290	1,610	\$19.40	Postsecondary vocational training

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Not Just a Job, but a Career

Young workers entering the labor force will find that many of the jobs to be had by postsecondary vocational training or associate degree are in growth industries such as healthcare or in expanding fields like information technology. Many of these occupations not only pay well, but also are gateway or entry-level occupations with stable long-term employment, and many opportunities for advancement. 

For more information, go to <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/trendlines/marapr08/asocate.xls>

**Many entry-level
technical jobs require
a certificate instead
of a degree.**